In the Claims

Kindly amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of Gabapentin Form- II comprising the steps of:

~~Reaction of the~~ reacting 1,1-cyclohexane di acetic acid mono amide with an alkali hypo halite solution at a temperature of about -10°C to about 5°C, followed by acidification with sulphuric acid in presence of ~~an~~ first organic solvent~~-1~~;

~~Extraction of~~ extracting the formed sulphate salt into an organic layer with a second organic solvent~~-2~~ ;

~~Separation of~~ separating the organic layer, followed by drying the layer over dehydrating agents ~~.~~;

~~Addition of~~ adding an ante solvent to precipitate the formed hemisulphate hemihydrate salt followed by its isolation;

~~Dissolution of~~ dissolving the hemisulphate hemihydrate salt in a short chain alcohol and

~~Separation of the~~ separating any insolubles ~~if any~~ from the salt solution to form a salt solution filtrate;

~~Neutralization of~~ neutralizing the filtrate with a base at temperature of about 70°C to liberate ~~the~~ free amino acid;

~~Isolation of~~ isolating the liberated free amino acid by cooling, leaving ~~the~~ formed byproduct base-salt in the mother liquor / solvent;

~~Separation of~~ separating the formed Gabapentin Form-II followed by pPurification ~~of the product~~ by slurrying in ethanol at temperature of about 60°C - 70°C; and

~~Recovery of~~ recovering the final product by filtering and drying to obtain Gabapentin Form-II having sulphate ions less than 100 ppm with respect to Gabapentin.

2. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first organic solvent ~~-1~~ is selected from n-Butanol, MIBIC, methyl ethyl ketone and THF~~, the preferred solvent being n-Butanol~~.

3. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second organic solvent ~~-2 for extraction of hemi sulphate hemihydrate salt~~ is selected from n-Butanol, MIBK,THF and methyl ethyl ketone~~, the preffered solvent being n-Butanol~~.

4. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein drying of the organic layer is carried out over dehydrating agents ~~such as anhydrous sodium sulphate and anhydrous magnesium sulphate and anhydrous calcium sulphate the preferred. ones being anhydrous sodium sulphate or anhydrous magnesium sulphate~~ .

5. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ante solvent is selected from acetone, toluene, n-hexane, and ~~D~~di isopropyl ether.

6. (original) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the short chain alcohol is ethanol and n-Butanol.

7. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the base is selected from ~~D~~di isopropyl ethylamine, and triethylamine.

8. (original) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the neutralization temperature is in the range of 65°C - 75°C.

9. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the purification of Gabapentin is done by slurrying in ethanol in the temperature range 65°C — 70°C.

10. (original) Crystalline Gabapentin hemisulphate hemihydrate characterized by powder x-ray diffraction peaks at 2-theta 6.8, 13.7, 17,0,18.0, 20.2, 20.6, 24,2, 24.6, 26.2, 26.8, 27.7, 29.9, 30,8, 34.0, and 34.7 degrees.

11. (original) Crystalline Gabapentin hemisulphate hemihydrate characterized by infra-red absorptions having peaks at 686, 757, 901, 917, 986, 1127, 1142, 1200, 1282, 1315, 1430, 1462, 1525, 1580 and 1714 cm^{-1}.

12. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of Gabapentin hemisulphate hemihydrate comprising the steps of:

~~Reaction of the~~ reacting 1,1-cyclohexane di acetic acid mono amide with an alkali hypo halite solution at temperature of about -10°C to about 5 °C, followed by acidification with sulphuric acid in presence of a~~n~~ first organic solvent~~-1~~;

~~- Extraction of~~ extracting the formed sulphate salt into an organic layer with a second organic solvent~~-2~~;

~~Separation of~~ separating the organic layer, and drying it over dehydrating agents;

~~Addition of~~ adding an ante solvent to the organic layer to precipitate ~~the~~ a hemisulphate hemihydrate salt followed by its isolation; and

~~Isolation of~~ isolating and drying ~~the~~ Gabapentin hemisulphate hemihydrate.

~~- Drying of the Gabapentin hemisulphate hemihydrate~~

13. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the first organic solvent~~-1~~ is selected from n-Butane, MIBK, methyl ethyl ketone and THF~~, the preferred solvent being n-Butanol.~~

14. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the second organic solvent~~-2 for extraction of hemi sulphate hemihydrate salt~~ is selected from n-Butanol, MIBK, THF and methyl ethyl ketone~~, the preffered solvent being n-Butanol.~~

15. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the

drying of the organic layer is carried out over dehydrating agents ~~such as anhydrous sodium sulphate and 'anhydrous magnesium sulphate and anhydrous calcium sulphate the preferred ones being anhydrous sodium sulphate or anhydrous magnesium sulphate.~~

16. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the ante solvent is selected from acetone, toluene, n-hexane, and ~~D~~di isopropyl ether.

17. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the d~~D~~rying of the Gabapentin hemisulphate hemihydrate ~~in~~ is at a temperature range of 50-60°C.

18. (cancelled)